



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Road 1000/Three Chop Ridge Shaded Fuel Break		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	T18N, R15W; Portions of Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 & 24 Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian	<b>COUNTY</b>	Mendocino
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Mike Powers, Forester III		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	CAL FIRE Jackson Demonstration State Forest 802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437	<b>PHONE</b>	(707) 964-5674

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) occupies an area of approximately 48,652 acres within Mendocino County, California. The JDSF Forest Management Plan and associated Fire Protection Plan has 87 miles of planned fire breaks that are intended to minimize the size and intensity of wildfires on JDSF. This project proposes to establish approximately 6 miles of fire break that is consistent with the Fire Protection Plan.

This project proposes to treat understory/ladder fuels along a fire suppression ridge and main access road. The majority of the fuels will be masticated utilizing a medium sized excavator with a masticator head. Where equipment access is limited due to topography, hand crews will cut and either loop and scatter or chip the resulting slash. Woody material chipped by the masticator or chipper will be broadcast and left dispersed on site.

Treatment prescription will include removing small trees of less than 11" DBH and brush with either an excavator masticator or hand crew with chainsaws. The width of the shaded fuel break will vary from 200-400 feet in width depending upon access and slopes. Heavy equipment will be restricted to flat to moderate slopes and existing roads and skid trails. The limbs of the retention trees will be pruned up to 8-12 feet above the ground level.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ **Categorical Exemption**      Type/Section: Class 4; 15304      Minor Alteration to Land
- ☐ **Statutory Exemption (state code section):**
- ☐ **Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)**
- ☐ **Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))**
- ☐ **Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))**

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 Categorical exemption, consisting of "minor public/private alterations in the conditions of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature & scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes". The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) was searched and no rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species were identified on the project site that will be negatively impacted by this project. The CAL FIRE Archaeologist has been consulted and has determined that this project is exempt from further archaeological review.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, Resource Management, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, Attn. Environmental Coordinator



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DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

SEP 04 2018

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Helge Eng, Deputy Director      Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

8/29/18